

(6) commends all journalists working and living in Russia for their courageous dedication to transparency and the truth.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 499, a resolution that condemns the murder of American journalist Paul Klebnikov in Moscow and the murder of other members of the media in the Russian Federation. H. Res. 499 was a product which I introduced, and I commend and thank the chairman of the Europe and Emerging Threats Subcommittee, Mr. GALLEGLY, and, of course, the chairman of the committee, Chairman HYDE, for all of their help with this legislation, as well as all of my colleagues on the International Relations Committee, and not surprisingly, I strongly urge its passage.

On July 9, 2004, Paul Klebnikov, the editor-in-chief of the Russian edition of Forbes Magazine, was shot 10 times outside his office building in Moscow. He left behind a wife and three young children. As part of his work, Mr. Klebnikov had developed into one of the foremost experts on the intersection between organized crime, politics, law enforcement and big business in Russia. Unfortunately, the murder of Paul Klebnikov is not an isolated attack on members of the press. In the past 6 years alone, 12 journalists have been murdered in the Russian Federation.

H. Res. 499 condemns this brutal murder, as well as the murder of other members of the Russian media. While applauding the work of the Russian prosecutor general's office for its ongoing investigation, the legislation urges the Government of Russia to continue its inquiry and bring to justice all parties involved in this horrific crime. It also calls upon Russia to accept offers of assistance from the United States and other rightly concerned governments.

Finally, H. Res. 499 commends Russian-based journalists for their courageous dedication to transparency and the truth and urges the Russian Government to take appropriate action to protect the independence and freedom of members of the press working and living in Russia.

H. Res. 499 was approved both by the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerg-

ing Threats and the full International Relations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is often wondered why in the United States our Constitution refers to freedom of speech rather than freedom of conscience. It is because the founders of this country and the framers of our Constitution understood that there can be no freedom of conscience where there is not freedom of speech to express it. What the Founding Fathers knew has been perverted by many who would enslave and subjugate their fellow human beings, which is why we in the United States who enjoy a freedom of speech and its concomitant freedom of conscience must be ever alert to ensure that the watchdogs of liberty, a free and unfettered press, are forever protected from intimidation or extermination at the hands of dictators.

Again, I would like to thank my colleagues on the International Relations Committee, and I would like to urge my colleagues to adopt this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H. Res. 499, and I want to thank Congressman McCOTTER for introducing this important resolution that is being considered on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, American journalist Paul Klebnikov devoted his career to exposing corruption within Russia. He was committed to seeing Russia become a free and wholly democratic society. I think I can speak for everyone in this room today that we all share his dream.

Unfortunately, Mr. Klebnikov will not be witness to this, as he was ruthlessly gunned down outside the Moscow offices of Forbes Magazine. He, like 11 other journalists since the Putin administration took office, was murdered in cold blood, chilling freedom of speech and the media in Russia.

Last year, President Putin announced publicly that fighting corruption and protecting the Russian people from crime is a priority for his administration. For this promise not to be seen as yet another hollow gesture, President Putin must do everything in his power to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of Mr. Klebnikov's murder. A free media will never exist in Russia unless the murderers are brought to justice.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge our colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just wish to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER), the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), and of course, the ranking member of the International Relations Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), who has been a staunch opponent of totalitarianism and a champion of freedom in this institution for decades.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 499, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today the phones in our district offices and our D.C. offices are ringing off the hook, and most of those calls are coming in about the situation that our country faces with illegal immigration.

Mr. Speaker, it is not that complicated an issue. The Members of this body and here in the House agree, secure the border first. That is the first thing that needs to be done.

The Republican leadership in the House worked hard to pass the bill that we passed last December, which addresses border security and employer enforcement.

So to my constituents and to the other Members of this body I say, let us say no to amnesty or any type of amnesty. Let us continue to support construction of a border, whether it is a wall or surveillance. Let us secure our border. I do support the use of military presence on the border as an emergency measure.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for action. The time has passed. It is time for us to be certain that this Nation is secure. It is an issue of national security.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

(Mr. McCOTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, ordinarily I would have recognized the work and dedication of a special constituent from Michigan's 11th District on Sunday. However, she was away from home.

I would like to thank Georgia Joan McCotter, a mother, for a lifetime of trying to make sure that her two sons, Thaddeus and Dennis, were raised to be good and decent people. Although she fully succeeded in my brother's case, I would like to assure her that I am still trying, but that the love in my heart for her will never diminish over time.

So, to her belatedly, if you are home, if you are listening, Happy Mother's Day.